

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229142

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 TEXTUAL LINE 7 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MPOL, NATO, FR

SUBJECT:FRENCH POSITION ON LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH

REF: USNATO 08162

1. WE AGREE WITH PROPOSALS IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL, AND SHARE
YOUR VIEW THAT THE MOST TROUBLESOME ASPECT OF THE FRENCH
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POSITION IS THAT IT COULD SET THE PRECEDENT THAT NATIONS
NEED NOT CONTRIBUTE TO CIVIL BUDGET EXPENSES FOR ACTIVITIES
IN WHICH THEY DO NOT PARTICIPATE OR HAVE NO SPECIAL INTER-
EST ; THIS COULD RESULT IN ADMINISTRATIVE CHAOS AND
POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION. MOREOVER, YOU MIGHT ALSO SUGGEST
THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN FRANCE'S INTEREST TO LET OTHERS
AUGMENT THE NATO/IS WITHOUT FRANCE'S FULL PARTICIPATION.

BY ALLOWING THIS, FRANCE COULD LOSE A LARGE MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER THE NATO/IS, IN EFFECT ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO REORGANIZE NATO AS THEY WANT AND SIMPLY NOT ASKING FRANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADDED COST.

2. ON POINT OF FRENCH DETERMINATION NOT TO APPEAR AS PARTICIPATING IN LTDP, WE (AND THE NATO/IS) SHOULD SUPPRESS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE ALL MENTION OF THE LTDP IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE NATO CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION. WE SHOULD STRESS THAT THE LUNS PROPOSAL FOR REORGANIZATION INVOLVING THE NATO/IS IS INTENDED TO MAKE THE EARLIER ORGANIZATION MORE EFFECTIVE FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS. AS WE UNDERSTAND SITUATION, CHANGES DIRECTLY RESULTING FROM THE LTDP WILL BE REFLECTED ON THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO, WITH COSTS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE MILITARY OR INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGETS.

3. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT LUNS SHOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO BRING FRENCH BACK INTO THE FOLD ON THIS QUESTION. UNDER CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FRENCH BENEFIT FROM A TRULY PRIVILEGED POSITION, WHICH HE COULD WELL POINT OUT TO THEM, AT THE SAME TIME INDICATING HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONTROL PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES AT NATO HEADQUARTERS TO PROTECT FRENCH INTERESTS IN NON-IDENTIFICATION WITH LTDP. AMBASSADOR SHOULD OFFER HIS SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF LUNS' APPROACH. CHRISTOPHER
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